REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 3, 11, and 14 are amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 3 and 11 were objected to; Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-16 were allowed; and Claims 3 and 11 were indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the above objection.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In response to this indication, dependent Claims 3 and 11 are amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Further, independent Claim 14 is amended to correct a minor informality. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Eckhard H. Kuesters

Registration No. 28,870

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423

Attorneys of Record

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 EHK/SS/RFF/cja

I:\ATTY\RFF\0s\0039\00397694\00397694-AM-JUL28.DOC